



**Permuda Island Reserve
Local Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 07, 2012, 10a-12p**

LAC Members	Affiliation/Interest	Present
Mr. Nathan Henry	DCR Archaeology	Yes
Ms. Deb Hill	Town of N. Topsail Beach Planning	Yes
Mr. Mike Yawn	Adjacent property owner	Yes
Mr. Mike Giles	N.C. Coastal Federation	Yes
Chief C.J. Fillinger	Town of N. Topsail Beach Police Dept	Yes
Others in Attendance		
Rebecca Ellin	DCM, Reserve Manager	Yes
Paula Gillikin	DCM, Central Sites Manager	Yes
Elizabeth Lang	NC Coastal Federation intern	Yes

Reserve Update – Rebecca Ellin

Staffing News

- Lori Davis was hired as the Education Coordinator effective February 16, 2012. Lori served as the Reserve's Education Specialist for the past ten years through a contract with University of North Carolina Wilmington. In her new role, she manages all K-12 student and teacher and general public programming. Lori has a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Methodist College.
- Paula Gillikin was hired as the Central Sites Manager effective February 20, 2012. Paula served as the Reserve's Rachel Carson Site Manager in a temporary capacity since 2007. She will continue to steward the Rachel Carson site in her new role and is also responsible for our Permuda Island Reserve. Paula has a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Environmental Science from the University of North Carolina Wilmington and a Master of Science from Tufts University in Animals and Public Policy.
- Whitney Jenkins was hired as the Coastal Training Program Coordinator effective August 31, 2012. Whitney served as the Reserve's Coastal Training Program Coordinator for the past ten years through a contract with University of North Carolina Wilmington. She will continue her coastal training duties and

coordinate communications for the program. Whitney has a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from the University of Florida and a Masters degree from Duke University in Coastal Environmental Management

- Interviews were conducted for the permanent Northern Sites Manager position in October 2012.

Budget Update

The Reserve receives funding from both the State of N.C. and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for operation of the program and a budget update was provided for the current and upcoming fiscal years. The Reserve's total budget for FY12-13 is \$911,287 (\$265,000 from State appropriations and \$646,287 from NOAA, 91% of the NOAA funds support operation of the N.C. National Estuarine Research Reserve); this excludes any external grant funds. The Division is participating in a number of budget exercises to prepare for the upcoming biennium (FYs 13-14 and 14-15) and gubernatorial transition. Federal appropriations for next fiscal year for operation of the N.C. National Estuarine Research Reserve portion of the program are uncertain at this time; possible scenarios include level-funding and reductions of various amounts.

Local Advisory Committees

The Reserve program updated the membership of existing and created three new Local Advisory Committees to inform management of the ten Reserve sites. The Local Advisory Committees function as advisory groups, providing feedback and recommendations to staff on site management, research, and education activities, and reviewing policies and implementation strategies. The committees operate per the adopted Operating Procedures document (February 2012); the procedures document, committee membership, and minutes are available on the Reserve's website.

Program Highlights

See attached for 2012 Reserve Program Highlights.

Permuda Island Reserve Overview – Paula Gillikin

- Paula gave a presentation about Permuda to familiarize committee members with its history of use, protection as a reserve, and management priorities.
- The biggest apparent site management challenges center on users leaving personal property (e.g. hunting paraphernalia) and shoreline erosion (loss of habitat and artifacts).

Member Roundtable and Other Comments

- Mike: What kind of external funding projects does the Coastal Reserve program seek and does the program seek public access funding? Rebecca responded that the majority of our external funding supports research, education, and restoration activities. The reserve sites are unimproved with few to

no facilities, but external funds were utilized to build boardwalks at our Currituck Banks and Rachel Carson reserve sites.

- Nathan: The growth of the maritime forest on the site is extensive and could present a research opportunity for vegetative succession. Erosion of the island is the biggest management concern. Slowing erosion would prevent artifact exposure and washing into the sound. Surveys of eroding shoreline would help to identify intact artifacts before they are lost. If artifacts are not in place, their value is minimal.
- The committee acknowledged that signage is needed to let users and the general public know that Permuda is a protected reserve. However, the Reserve should be careful about posting signs that might attract more attention to the island, potentially endangering its resources. It might be a good idea to promote aspects of access challenges (e.g., snakes, thick vegetation, etc).
- Chief Fillinger: Utilize state resources that are already out in the area, especially Wildlife Resources Commission enforcement, for hunting and general oversight.
- The committee discussed acquisition of adjacent lands as a way to protect the ecology and archeological resources in a broader area. However, the Reserve would need to manage the lands which could be a challenge. If lands become available and there is a willing seller, the Reserve will consider the feasibility of acquisition and management.
- The committee discussed how community members (e.g., fishermen, recreational users, nearby commercial enterprises) can be recruited to keep an eye on the site.
- The committee agreed that a community presentation (including one to the Historical Society) may be helpful to reach the broader community and potential volunteers.
- Mike Giles suggested that the Reserve and Coastal Federation might work together on restoration and education efforts.
- The committee would like to meet in March of 2013 and then decide if a meeting frequency of twice per year is appropriate.

Public Comments

None

Meeting follow up

Paula Gillikin will send out presentation slides via email and keep the committee informed of any significant issues that arise at Permuda. She will also follow up to schedule a March 2013 meeting date.

N.C. Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve



... Protecting over 42,000 acres of coastal habitat for research, education, and stewardship

Highlights 2012

- Installed two low-flow tide gates and nine flashboard risers at the Buckridge Coastal Reserve. The pre-existing canal system within the Reserve was draining freshwater wetlands and introducing saltier water to the interior of the Reserve. This project, funded by the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, preserves the outstanding resource waters of the Alligator River, restores the natural hydrology of the Reserve, and helps the ecosystem better cope with rising sea levels.
- Completed the Reserve's collaborative project "Sustainable estuarine shoreline stabilization: research, education, and public policy in North Carolina" with NOAA and University partners and funded by the Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (CICEET). Research results indicate that natural marshes provide higher levels of ecosystem services than marshes associated with bulkheads. Results also indicate that small, narrow fringing marshes in front of bulkheads are still capable of providing important ecosystem services compared to bulkhead sites with no marsh, which provided almost no ecosystem services. An alternative shoreline stabilization demonstration project was installed as part of this project on the east end of the Rachel Carson Reserve featuring a living shoreline constructed with natural materials including oyster cultch and *Spartina alterniflora*. Outreach activities effectively reached target stakeholders and are ongoing.
- Established three sentinel sites at the Rachel Carson, Masonboro Island, and Zeke's Island components of the N.C. National Estuarine Research Reserve to measure change in coastal habitats related to sea level rise and inundation.
- Reached over 2,300 students, teachers, local government officials, coastal decision makers, and other members of the coastal community through workshops, reserve site field trips, summer camps, and other educational activities conducted by the staff of the N.C. Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve. Participants learned about the importance of estuaries, environmental stewardship, estuarine shoreline stabilization alternatives, sustainable communities and low impact development, and research conducted at reserve sites.
- Utilized community and student volunteers in a variety of stewardship activities across the ten Reserve sites, from clean-ups to species monitoring, resulting in over 1,200 hours of service to the program.
- Updated the membership of existing and created three new Local Advisory Committees to inform management of the ten Reserve sites. The Local Advisory Committees function as advisory groups, providing feedback and recommendations to staff on site management, research, and education activities, and reviewing policies and implementation strategies. The committees operate per the adopted Operating Procedures document (February 2012); the procedures document, committee membership, and minutes are available on the Reserve's website.

www.nccoastalreserve.net

The N.C. Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve is a program of the N.C. Division of Coastal Management. The N.C. National Estuarine Research Reserve is managed through a federal-state partnership between NOAA and the Division.